

# Montana can meet carbon challenge with innovation

In Montana, we know innovation. Our state is home to historic feats of engineering like the Going to the Sun Road and the Fort Peck Dam. These days Montana engineers are hard at work solving new challenges, like harnessing new energy sources and leading the way in high-tech industries.

Our history of innovation built Montana. We don't shy away from the challenges we face. Instead, we work together to innovate and figure out the best way to confront them—the Montana way. Imagine what visiting Glacier Park would be like today if highway engineers had

Guest  
VIEW

said, "There's no way we can build a road up that mountain."

Today's challenges are no different. And we cannot ignore one of the biggest challenges we all face: how climate change may soon affect Montana's agriculture and the countless businesses and industries that rely on our lucrative outdoor heritage.

So how do we address it? The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing new limits on coal pollution. In

Montana we like to say that one size does not fit all, and thank goodness in this case, as the EPA is giving Montana flexibility to build its own road up the mountain.

Gov. Steve Bullock met the challenge by identifying several different ways to meet those new standards and invest in new jobs and technology — all while protecting existing coal jobs. Like so many Montanans before us, the governor showed us that we don't have to back away from our most pressing challenges.

Montanans gave quick feedback to the governor's vision, and he impressed many of us

by providing a uniquely Montanan path forward.

Under the scenarios Bullock outlined, Montana can make homes and businesses more energy efficient. We can protect our clean air and water. And we can create jobs and improve economic opportunity. We can achieve all of these things without shutting down a single coal facility. We can save consumers money.

That's innovation.

When Bullock announced his plans, he said he's "less interested in rhetorical fights" and instead focused instead on knowing what the proposed EPA rule could mean for Montana. That,

too, is the Montana way. On this particular issue, let's set aside our partisan differences and focus on what's right for Montana. Let's continue to innovate. Let's put our creativity to work for the future.

I encourage all Montanans to take a look at the governor's scenarios for meeting the EPA's proposed standards.

Niles Hushka, of Bismarck and Bozeman, is CEO of KLJ, a regional multi-disciplinary engineering and planning firm. He serves on the board of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, volunteers in the Montana Ambassador program, and is a member of the Montana State Workforce Investment Board.

Readers Speak

Stop spreading lies about mentally ill

Why does it look like certain folks around here are allowed to abuse the rights of the mentally ill? They go around spreading slander and lies as well and nothing is ever done. Someone is always protecting them from charges.

Raymond Eli  
361 W. Iron St., Butte

COMMUNITY PULSE:

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Butte mine reaches settlement on air quality violation

When we saw report mentioning wood smoke in July, we were fearing the worst, but this agreement is a solid start. The air quality in area around the concentrator has been a sore point for a long time. Good job to MR management for respecting Butte citizens and the future of the sacred city.

—montanastrong

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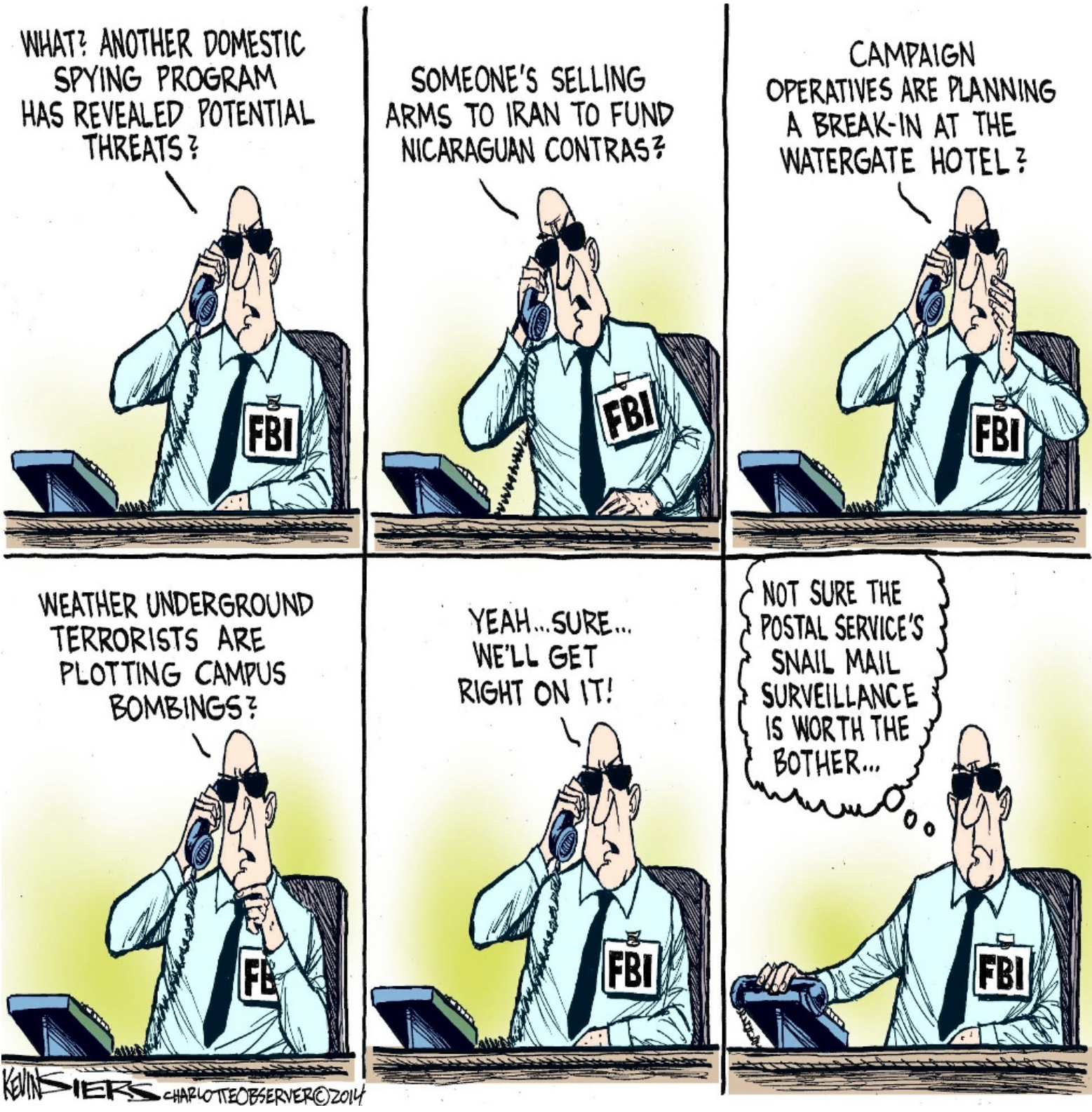
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QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What should Butte-Silver Bow do about the collapsed building?

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# For too many, minds closed to the truth

You can't handle the truth.

There is a temptation to take that line from Jack Nicholson — snarled at Tom Cruise in *A Few Good Men* — as the moral of the story, the lesson to be learned from a new study on trustworthiness and the news media.

The study, conducted by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center, informs us that America's least-trusted news source is conservative radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh, rated unreliable by almost 40 percent of all Americans. The also conservative Fox "News" follows closely at 37 percent. So America's least-trusted news sources are also its most popular; Limbaugh hosts

by Leonard Pitts

the number one show on radio and Fox is the highest-rated cable news outlet.

It gets better. Pew tells us America's most trusted news source is CNN; the network that eschews any ideological identifier is considered reliable by 54 percent of us. Yet for as much as we supposedly trust it, we don't seem to like it very much. Its ratings — despite a mild resurgence in recent months — are but a fraction of Fox's and it is undergoing massive layoffs.

For what it's worth, there's evidence to support

America's perception of who is and is not trustworthy. PunditFact, an offshoot of PolitiFact, the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact-checking website, has issued a report card on the truthfulness of broadcast pundits by network. It's an imperfect measure, but the results are still compelling. Over 60 percent of Fox pundit statements rated by PunditFact have been found to be some flavor of false.

CNN? Just 22 percent.

If all this sounds like a commercial for the network of holograms and missing plane obsessions, it isn't. Rather, it's a lament for the closing of the American mind.

There is an axiom that he who builds the best mousetrap enjoys the

greatest success. But if that's true, how is it the greatest successes in a business measured by trustworthiness are those entities judged least trustworthy of all? Maybe the answer is that conservative hardliners are more rabid in support of those who validate their views than the rest of us are in pursuit of simple truth.

In a nation where political discourse is increasingly a facts-optional exercise and reality now comes in shades of red and blue, that's hardly reassuring.

Two years ago, at the request of yours truly, the people at Nielsen crunched some numbers. They found that in times of major breaking news — the examples used were

the Columbine shooting, the Sept. 11 attacks, the commencement of the Iraq War, the Japanese tsunami and the death of Michael Jackson — ratings for all three cable news outlets tend to rise. But, almost without exception, the most dramatic spikes on a percentage basis are enjoyed by CNN. The week of Sept. 11, its ratings rose by 800 percent. No other network came close.

In other words, when something big has happened and people need to know what's going on, they know where to go. They go where they can trust.

But on a routine day, many Americans, for as much as they will say otherwise, really don't want to be informed so much as to be confirmed

in their political biases, in the partisan version of truth that explains the world to them while making the fewest demands on intellect — and conscience. They need the "death panels" and "anchor" babies, the birther controversies and supposedly rampant voter fraud, the "threats" of sharia law and Obama-caused Ebola, the whole rickety structure of falsehood and fear upon which conservatism has built its alternate reality. That's the whole reason Fox exists — and CNN barely does.

And it's why Nicholson's quote, tempting as it is, provides no proper moral for this story.

It's not that we can't handle the truth. It's that some of us prefer the lie.

The Brilliant Mind of Edison Lee

Mallard Fillmore

THE MIDTERMS ARE HERE. WE'RE SO SICK OF CAMPAIGNING.

THE LIES! THE SLANDER! IT'S WHY WE'RE COMPLAINING.

TV ADS SPEWN FORTH, AN OBNOXIOUS EXPECTORATE.

TO TRY TO SWAY VOTES OF THE UNSURE ELECTORATE.

RE-ELECT GENATOR OTTOMAN, BECAUSE HIS OPPONENT IS A POO-POO HEAD!

DID YOU KNOW THAT THIS SUNDAY IS THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL?

WHAT'S THE BERLIN WALL?

SOMETHING WE'RE "DOOMED TO REPEAT" APPARENTLY...